

We must also note the outstanding contribution of the State of Maryland and its governor, Governor Ehrlich, who welcomed them at Baltimore Washington International Airport.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. John Michael of my district called me from Lebanon to ask for his support. I arranged for his registration and quick contact with the U.S. embassy there. Thanks to the work of the United States Navy, the Marine Corps, the State Department and the Transportation Command, Dr. Michael, his wife Christine and their children, Daniel, Ramson, Edessan and Kamber, all from my district, were caught in Lebanon, but now were rescued by the U.S. military and State Department. But for this operation, they might still be in harm's way, but thanks to the work of these professionals, the men and women of the State Department, Navy and Marine Corps, they are home in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, we have saved over 5,000 Americans to date, and I am told today that the number of Americans seeking to leave Lebanon is now declining. We will soon be the first Nation to use this large logistical effort to begin a massive humanitarian aid lift to support the people of Lebanon itself.

Mr. Speaker, take a moment tonight to thank the young Americans who serve on the *Nashville*, *Whidbey Island* and *Trenton*. Due to their training and professionalism, they were there exactly when thousands of their fellow American citizens needed them to escape from Lebanon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMAN of New York). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. OSBORNE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### ESCALATING CONFLICTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to discuss the escalating conflicts in the Middle East, and bearing in mind that the answer to real stability throughout that region is a resolution to the half century old Israeli-Palestinian conflict and a two-State solution with negotiations ongoing. That has not happened during the lifetime of this administration. In fact, they have ignored that completely.

The second solution is to decouple U.S. foreign policy from our reliance on the oil regimes in the Middle East which supply the largest share of this country's dependence on imported petroleum.

Those are the two answers. We are getting distracted by a lot of other activities in the region, but without a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and a two-State solution, and this country being able to stand on its own two feet again, and not have to beg any repressive society for oil, we will not find a solution for security for the American people at home nor abroad.

The situation is worsening. War is an abandonment of reason, and it is critical for Members of Congress to stand for a path to peace, especially at a time that we witness and the world witnesses more killing, more death, more carnage escalating around us, escalating around those directly involved in the Middle East.

It is especially essential to be a voice for peace when others believe that escalating the military option without serious and equal emphasis on political and diplomatic efforts will yield calm and resolution.

Ghandi instructed us an eye for an eye will leave the world blind, and physics reminds us that to every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. I think in this latest conflagration between Lebanon and Israel there will be more than an equal and opposite reaction.

Indeed, I predict, and it is happening already, escalating violence will reap more radical extremism throughout the region as moderate voices are muffled by the bombs and the escalation of the rhetoric and the escalation of the violence.

Please notice, as a result of U.S. policy already in country after country, radical extremes are gaining political edge in the halls of government. The Muslim brotherhood of late has made major inroads in Egypt's parliament, rising from a level of couple dozen seats out of around 450 seats to nearly 100, and Egypt has signed a peace treaty with Israel.

In Pakistan, orthodoxy is being elected at the provincial level over and over again.

In Iraq, the Shi'a majority is aligning with Iran, and indeed, the prime minister who is to address the Congress, this Congress this Wednesday, has come out full bore along with the parliament for the Hezbollah, condemning the actions of Israel, our ally.

In Lebanon, Hezbollah has gained a foothold in parliament and enormous and growing sympathy on the street. Lebanon's wartorn areas from the last invasion by Israel beginning in the 1980s and its need for rebuilding were neglected by the world community, including this country, and Hezbollah took root for over two decades now.

I am one of the few Members of this Congress that tried to go beyond the

usual lip service paid to Lebanon to help it rebuild its wartorn areas and rebuild its civil society so that it could function at the point where Syria would withdraw, and the government of the United States, the State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development, every single instrument of this government stopped us every step of the way. We could take such tiny little steps.

Is it any wonder that Hezbollah gained footing in the southern area of Lebanon? No one else took an interest, and violence displaced the opportunity over the 2½ decades for the development of civil society. No one in our country really cared, and major political opposition in Congress existed to helping Lebanon at all. How do you build a peaceful path? How do you secure Israel with enemies on every side?

Iran's moderate voices have been silenced by extremism and decades of lack of engagement by any sitting President of this country. Even backchannels were let atrophied.

And so the world is poised for more hatred and more mass killings. I will not associate myself with lopsided policies that ripen hatred toward this country, annihilate prospects for peace and threaten both Israel's and Palestine's ultimate existence.

Mr. Speaker, I place in the RECORD at this point Bob Herbert's article, "Find a Better Way," from The New York Times today. It is superb.

(From the New York Times, July 24, 2006)

FIND A BETTER WAY

(By Bob Herbert)

It's too late now, but Israel could have used a friend in the early stages of its war with Hezbollah—a friend who could have tugged at its sleeve and said: "O.K. We understand. But enough."

That friend should have been the United States.

It is not difficult to understand both Israel's obligation to lash back at the unprovoked attacks of Hezbollah, and the longstanding rage and frustration that have led the Israelis to attempt to obliterate, once and for all, this unrelenting terrorist threat. Israelis are always targets for terror—whether they are minding their own business in their homes, or shopping at the mall, or taking a bus to work, or celebrating the wedding of loved ones.

(A quick example from a seemingly endless list: An Israeli security guard prevented a Palestinian suicide bomber from entering a mall in the seaside town of Netanya last December. The bomber detonated his explosives anyway, killing himself, the guard and four others.)

But the unnecessary slaughter of innocents, whether by Hezbollah, Hamas, Al Qaeda, American forces in Iraq or the Israeli defense forces, is always wrong, and should never be tolerated. So civilized people cannot in good conscience stand by and silently watch as hundreds of innocents are killed and thousands more threatened by the spasm of destruction unleashed by Israel in Lebanon.

Going after Hezbollah is one thing. The murderous rocket attacks into Israel must be stopped. But the wanton killing of innocent civilians, including babies and children, who had no connection at all to Hezbollah is something else.

The United States should have whispered into Israel's ear, the message being: "The carnage has to cease. We'll find a better way."

Instead, the Bush crowd nodded in acquiescence as Israel plowed headlong into a situation that can't possibly end any other way than badly. Lebanon, which had been one of the few bright spots in the Middle East, is now a mess. Even if Hezbollah is brought to its knees, the circumstances will ensure that there will be legions of newly radicalized young men anxious to take up arms and step into the vacuum.

(When Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982, its strongest resistance enemy was the Palestinian guerrilla group Fatah. When it withdrew 18 years later, it left behind a stronger, more extreme guerrilla movement in Hezbollah, a force that didn't exist at the time of the invasion.)

Joseph Cirincione, an expert on national security matters (and a supporter of Israel) at the Center for American Progress in Washington, said last week: "There is no question that Hezbollah provoked this current crisis, and that it was right for Israel to respond, even if that meant crossing the Lebanon border to strike back at those who had attacked it. But this operation has gone too far. It's striking back at those who had nothing to do with Hezbollah."

As a true friend of Israel, the task of the United States is to work as strenuously as possible to find real solutions to Israel's security. The first step in that process, as far as the current crisis is concerned, would logically have been to try and broker a cease-fire.

But the compulsive muscle-flexers in the Bush crowd were contemptuous of that idea. Always hot for war, and astonishingly indifferent to its consequences, they egged Israel on.

That was not the behavior of a friend.

Neither Israel nor the United States can kill enough Muslims to win the struggle against terror. What Israel needs are stable, moderate governments in the region. (This is one of the reasons why it made no sense to cripple the Lebanese government.) What the United States needs is as much serious diplomatic engagement on all fronts as possible; and an end to the Bush administration's insane addiction to war—ever more war—as the answer to the world's ills.

The U.S. especially needs to be deeply involved in the effort to establish peace between Israel and its neighbors.

There is no grand solution to the centuries-old problems of the Middle East. As with the cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union, you try to keep things as cool as possible, step by step, sometimes agonizing step. It may not be pretty, and it will surely be frustrating. But if the conflict, however aggravating, can be kept cold, as opposed to hot, you're ahead of the game.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BILIRAKIS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

#### HONORING FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS THOMAS J. MANTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in sadness to pay tribute to my predecessor here in Congress, Tom Manton. In politics, as in life, you can only achieve greatness by building on the path that those before you have taken.

Tom was a mentor to me, a friend, a confidante. Tom Manton truly loved serving here in this institution, with his friends on both sides of the aisle. I will truly miss his friendship, and our city and our State of New York will miss his leadership.

My condolences go out to his wife, Diane, and to all his children and his grandchildren on the passing of their husband, their father and their grandfather.

Tom Manton was born in New York City in 1932. He was the son of a working class Irish immigrant. His father actually worked here on Capitol Hill as a plasterer, laying plaster in the Longworth Building. He often talked about that historical note. He would often say only in America can a son of someone who built the halls of Congress one day serve in the halls of Congress.

Tom Manton went on to law school at the St. John's University where he got his law degree, but before that, he was a police officer, a computer salesman, and after law school was elected to the New York City Council in 1969, representing what are still parts of today the 7th congressional district that I have the honor of serving in.

In 1986, after the death of Donald Manes, Tom Manton stepped up and filled the role as chair of the County of Queens Democratic Party. When our party in Queens was at its lowest ebb, Tom Manton took the reins of control and brought back the image of Democrats in Queens County and in New York City and New York State. He instilled discipline from time to time, which is part of the role of a county leader, but he worked to make the party the preeminent political party, not only of New York City and New York State, but many would argue our Nation today.

Presidential candidates, from Mike Dukakis and Dick Gephardt and Fritz Mondale and Bob Kerry, Bill Clinton, and JOHN KERRY, all sought his support and the support of Queens Democrats to help propel them to higher office and, in the instance of Bill Clinton, successfully helping to make him President of the United States.

But Tom has helped elected officials at every level achieve their goals, the first of firsts in many respects: the

first Indian political leader, under his tutelage; the first Bangladeshi American political leader, under his tutelage; the first Latino from Queens to the New York State assembly; the first openly gay political leader; the first woman as Borough president; and the first African American woman as Borough president; and the list goes on and on.

Tom always had the bug for Congress and ran in 1972 against an incumbent, James Delaney. He lost that election, but he also ran again in 1978 against Geraldine Ferraro. Once again, he lost, but he did not let that keep him down. When Geraldine Ferraro was tapped by Walter Mondale to run as his running mate in 1984, Tom took the opportunity to run for and finally win a seat in Congress.

In Congress, he was an inside political player who earned a seat on the Committee on Energy and Commerce. He fought tenaciously through this committee for the interests of New York, bringing countless jobs and Federal resources to his district.

One of his major accomplishments was the establishment of the Ad-Hoc Committee of Irish Affairs which he used as a forum to represent one of the largest communities of Irish immigrants in the United States.

As co-chair of this committee, he worked closely with President Clinton to urge him to grant a visa to Gerry Adams, and this began the peace process that led to the Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland.

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As a friend and a mentor, I have to say, in addition to being a caring husband, grandfather, and father, Tom was a dear friend to many. In 1984, my uncle, Walter Crowley, ran against Tom Manton in that open primary seat that I spoke of earlier. I worked very hard for my Uncle Walter in that campaign, and I remember vividly the heartbreaking loss my Uncle endured and that I felt myself. Tom Manton was an unspoken name in our household. It was a bad word. You couldn't say that name.

But not long after that, Tom Manton tapped me on the shoulder at the County Cork Association dance on Greenpoint Avenue, and he said to me, how would you like to be the next assemblyman from the 30th assembly district? Why don't you think about getting in that primary. And I did. I won a subway primary, with his support and under his tutelage. In 1998, I was proud to succeed him here in Congress as the Congressman from the Seventh Congressional District.

I know how proud Tom was to serve in this Congress, and I know how proud I am of the work that he did here, and I am proud to succeed him here in Congress to this day. There is not a day that I am not grateful for the opportunities that Tom Manton created for me and for my life.

To Tom's wife, Diane; to his four children, Cathy Manton Laurent of